

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00771 241548Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 SCCT-01 ACDA-05

OMB-01 AID-05 OC-05 CCO-00 /099 W

----- 019656

O P 241250Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8310

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 00771 241548Z

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
DIA WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 771

MADRID FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY FOR DAY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, LE
SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE HOLDING WELL

REF: BEIRUT 0756 (1308Z)

SUMMARY: ONLY ISOLATED INCIDENTS ARE OCCURRING IN BEIRUT TODAY, JANUARY 24. ALL SIGNS ARE ENCOURAGING FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE CEASEFIRE. AD HOC SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING TAKEN WHICH INCLUDE PALESTINIAN CONTROL OF WEST BEIRUT. KHADDAM AND COMPANY ARE STILL HERE. SHORTAGES OF FUEL AND FLOUR REMAIN CRITICAL. THE AIRPORT IS OPEN. PRESIDENT FRANGIE DID NOT ANNOUNCE THE TEN-POINT SETTLEMENT PLAN YESTERDAY, BUT MAY DO SO TODAY OR MONDAY. END SUMMARY

1. SECURITY TREND IS ENCOURAGING AS OF 1200 HOURS LOCAL TODAY, JAN 24. CEASEFIRE IS HOLDING WELL IN BEIRUT EXCEPT FOR ISOLATED FIRING. HEADQUARTERS OF INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES (ISF) IS STILL CAUTIONING AGAINST USE OF MOST STREETS, HOWEVER. A PHALANGE SPLINTER GROUP AT STARCO AREA IN CENTER OF CITY IS REPORTEDLY BALKING AT CEASEFIRE, ALTHOUGH PHALANGE AS CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 00771 241548Z

A WHOLE IS COOPERATING. WE HAVE NO FIRM INFORMATION ON THE TRIPOLI AND ZAHLE AREAS, BUT ISF TELLS US CEASEFIRE BEING RESPECTED THERE AS WELL.

2. PENDING THE QUOTE RECOVERY BY THE STATE OF ITS AUTHORITY UNQUOTE, SECURITY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WILL BE GOVERNED BY AD HOC ARRANGEMENTS. WEST BEIRUT WILL BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE PALESTINIAN

ARMED STRUGGLE COMMAND AND THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ARMY. SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE JOINT LEBANESE/SYRIAN/PALESTINIAN CEASEFIRE COMMITTEE WILL BE SET UP THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, EACH HAVING ONE LEBANESE OFFICER, ONE SYRIAN OFFICER, AND EITHER A PALESTINIAN (IN AREAS UNDER LEFTIST/PALESTINIAN CONTROL) OR A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LOCALLY DOMINANT CHRISTIAN GROUP (I.E. PHALANGE, NATIONAL LIBERAL, ETC.). SIXTY SYRIAN OFFICERS (30 CHRISTIANS, 30 MOSLEMS) ARRIVED IN BEIRUT YESTERDAY TO SERVE ON THESE BODIES.

3. KHADDAM AND COMPANY ALL REMAIN IN BEIRUT. THEY CONFERRED WITH VARIOUS LEBANESE LEADERS YESTERDAY AND WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN THE AD HOC SECURITY DECISIONS TAKEN. THEY APPEAR READY TO STAY ON THE SCENE UNTIL THE FINAL DETAILS OF THE CEASEFIRE/ POLITICAL AGREEMENT ARE HAMMERED OUT.

4. SHORTAGES OF FUEL AND FLOUR CONTINUE IN THE CAPITAL. PRESIDENT FRANGIE AND ECONOMY MINISTER OSSEIRAN MET YESTERDAY ON THIS PROBLEM AND DECIDED TO TAKE EMERGENCY DISTRIBUTION MEASURES, PARTICULARLY FOR HOSPITALS.

5. THE AIRPORT IS OPEN TO COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC. MEA IS ALREADY FLYING IN, AND AIR FRANCE HAS ANNOUNCED THE RESUMPTION OF ITS DAILY BEIRUT/PARIS FLIGHT.

6. PRESIDENT FRANGIE DID NOT ANNOUNCE THE TEN-POINT SETTLEMENT PLAN YESTERDAY AS WE HAD EXPECTED. THERE ARE STILL SOME QUOTE ADJUSTMENTS UNQUOTE TO BE NEGOTIATED. BUT THESE APPEAR MINOR AND ANNOUNCEMENT MAY COME TODAY OR MONDAY. BOTH MOSLEM AND CHRISTIAN
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PAGE 04 BEIRUT 00771 241548Z

SOURCES BELIEVE SETTLEMENT VIRTUALLY IN HAND, AND POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE VERY UPBEAT. JUMBLATT AND CHAMOUN, WHO FOR DIFFERING REASONS HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES RELUCTANT SUPPORTERS OF THE ACCORD, HAVE PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THEIR ADHERENCE TO IT. (CHAMOUN'S ADHERENCE WAS TO THE QUOTE CEASEFIRE UNQUOTE, AND THUS HIS POSITION ON THE POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS MAY REMAIN QUALIFIED). JUMBLATT, INCIDENTALLY, HAS GONE ON RECORD AGAIN WITH THE OPINION THAT THE U.S. DOES NOT RPT NOT SUPPORT PARTITION--INDICATING THAT THIS WORD MAY AT LAST BE PENETRATING.

7. THE CHRISTIAN MOOD AT THIS JUNCTURE SEEMS TO BE A MIXTURE OF RELIEF THAT THE FIGHTING IS POSSIBLY OVER, ANXIETY THAT THE PALESTINIANS WILL NOT ABIDE BY THE AGREEMENT,

AND ANGER AT THE QUOTE SYRIAN OCCUPATION UNQUOTE OF LEBANON. SOME OF THEIR ANGER RUBS OFF ON THE U.S., FOR MANY CHRISTIANS BELIEVE WE LET LEBANON DOWN IN STANDING BY WHILE QUOTE SYRIAN TROOPS INVADED UNQUOTE THE BEKAA. IN THEIR EYES, THIS IS TANTAMOUNT TO ABANDONMENT OF OUR PROCLAIMED SUPPORT FOR THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF LEBANON. INTERESTINGLY, A BIT OF THIS ANGER SEEMS TO BE DEFLECTED AGAINST CHAMOUN FOR HAVING HELD OUT FALSE HOPES ABOUT CHRISTIAN ABILITY TO FIGHT OFF THE PALESTINAIANS AND ABOUT U.S. INTERVENTION. AN ANTI-CHAMOUN REACTION IS REPORTED NOTABLY AMONG THE POPULATION OF DAMOUR.

8. APART FROM THIS, HOWEVER, SOME CHRISTIANS ARE WAKING UP TO THE FACT THAT THE ACCORD'S TERMS ARE NOT ALL THAT BAD FROM THEIR VIEWPOINT. SOME SPECIFIC CLAUSES FAVORABLE TO THE CHRISTIANS ARE COMING TO LIGHT. THE 50-50 SPLIT IN PARLIAMENT, FOR EKAMPLE, IS SAID TO BE TEMPERED BY A STIPULATION THAT IMPORTANT ITEMS (TO BE DETERMINED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC) WILL REQUIRE A TWO-THIRDS VOTE. ALSO, THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT WILL REQUIRE A SPECIAL MAJORITY (REPORTEDLY 55 PER CENT). VERY LITTLE OF JUMBLATT'S VAUNTED LEFTIST PROGRAM HAS GOTTEN INTO THE ACCORD, WHICH CAUSED ONE CHRISTIAN OBSERVER TO EXPRESS AMAZEMENT TO EMBOFF TODAY THAT THE LEFT HAD AGREED TO IT SO QUICKLY.
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PAGE 05 BEIRUT 00771 241548Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, NEGOTIATIONS, PROGRESS REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT00771
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760028-0440
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760125/aaaaavut.tel
Line Count: 202
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 756
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 APR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <04 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CEASEFIRE HOLDING WELL
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, LE, SY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006